



From the Desk of Howard  
County Chairperson  
Dr. Calvin Ball

March 2016

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

## Construction Edition

### Welcome!

Interested in a construction project near you or whether a project will soon begin impacting your travel or commute time? This newsletter is my effort to promote transparency about ongoing projects and those on the horizon and share important information including timelines, where available. As you know, these projects may cause delays, so I encourage you to stay tuned, plan ahead and use caution when driving.

Have questions about a construction project but don't see it inside this edition? Email me at [cbball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cbball@howardcountymd.gov) or my Special Assistant Kim Pruim at [kprium@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kprium@howardcountymd.gov) and we'll investigate on your behalf and include details in next month's edition where applicable. As always, I encourage you to share this newsletter with your friends, family and neighbors.

### Current Projects

#### Maintenance Yard Construction

This project will upgrade a Bureau of Utilities maintenance yard in Columbia to include construction of a pre-engineered sewer rig building, storage bins and a maintenance and storage building at 8250 and 8270 Old Montgomery Rd. Improvements will also be made to the site's existing maintenance building and wash bay. The project should be complete by **March 2016**, weather permitting.

#### Water Main Relocation

A project to remove a water main from within an embankment of a storm water pond in Columbia has begun. Excavation and installation of 400 linear ft. of 24-in. water main will take place at the pond in the vicinity of Gerwig Ln. and Minstrel Way. The relocation of the water main will allow for future enlargement of the storm water pond. This project will not impact vehicular traffic in the area. Weather permitting, is expected to be completed by **mid-May 2016**.

#### Rt 29 Widening Project

**Phase IA (Old Columbia Rd) – Complete**  
**Phase 1B NB Rt29 (Third Ln Widening & Noise Wall Construction) – Under Construction.**

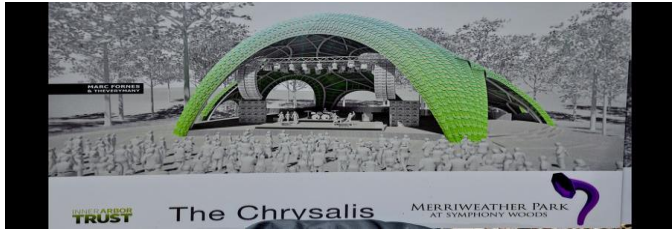
Noise walls are being constructed along east side of NB Rt29 (Seneca Dr to Rt175). To facilitate construction of noise walls south of the exit ramp NB US29 to EB Rt175, the ramp is being relocated approx. 300ft north. Traffic is being detoured to west Rt175 exit ramp and around the loop ramps of the Rt175 interchange during construction.

**Gales Lane:** is still in negotiations with the two remaining property owners.

**River's Edge:** SHA evaluated several interchange options and hosted a public meeting on **November 12, 2015**. Representatives discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative, address potential environmental and ROW impacts associated, and explain traffic operations during construction. After hearing from the community and elected officials, SHA has placed alternatives on their website and sent out a link. SHA will be reevaluating the plan.

#### Rt 175 Ramp Construction

SHA is relocating the EB Rt175 approx. 300 ft. north. There is a detour in place directing motorists to take the WB Rt175 exit during construction. **Once Phase 1B of the Rt 29 widening project is complete**, SHA will be eliminating the WB29 to WB175 cloverleaf ramp and replacing it with a new traffic signal on Rt175 accessed via NB29 to EB175 ramp.



## Chrysalis Amphitheater in Downtown Columbia

As the first of the seven-phase development plan by the Inner Arbor Trust, the Chrysalis Amphitheater will be a shell-shaped outdoor facility east of Merriweather Post Pavilion. The capacity is 400 people with two stages: the Alpha Stage proscenium for larger productions and the Beta Stage proscenium with a thrust stage for smaller events. Construction has begun and the focus has been on the Chrysalis' robust Foundation. "Mud mats" were poured, reinforcing steel, or rebar, was formed, placed, tied, and inspected. All foundation walls have an extensive matrix of rebar, and piers, which will directly support the structural steel of the canopy have the most complex rebar configuration and density in the Chrysalis foundation. After "Snowzilla", the first major concrete pour of the foundation was made. The floor will be Ipe wood tiles; though underneath will have rebar reinforced concrete slab floor, placed at the top of and tying directly into the walls and pier.

The Chrysalis' strong foundation & floor is part of the engineering design that allows it to withstand high winds and support up to 40,000lbs of theatrical gear potentially hanging from the steel. The one-of-a-kind building will be completed this year, delivering delight to residents of Howard County and beyond for years to come. Critically, the project is on budget, thanks to \$6.4 million in funding from Howard County government and additional funding from the Inner Arbor Trust's revenue during the development period.

## Construction at Rt 103/Rt 29 North Ramp

This project will upgrade the existing interchange lighting at US29/MD108, US29/MD103, and US29/US40. New interchange guide signing will also be installed. This project is expected to be complete in **September 2016**.

## Hickory Ridge Village Center Redevelopment Proposal - Kimco's Vision

A proposed plan for the redevelopment of the Hickory Ridge Village Center, 6420 Freetown Rd located in Columbia, MD. This includes mixed-use development including retail and multi-family housing (approx. 280-300 units). Retailers currently housed in smaller buildings across from Giant are proposed to be relocated in the new structures and the smaller building would then be removed and replaced with a parking lot. There would be a parking garage interior to the apartment building to serve residents. On **December 7, 2015**, Kimco Realty hosted a [Notice of Intent to Develop the Hickory Ridge Village Center](#). The First Pre-submission Community Meeting will occur on **Wednesday, March 23, 2016 7-9pm** at **Atholton High School, 6520 Freetown Rd** in Columbia. The purpose of this meeting is to continue the dialogue and to facilitate community input regarding the Hickory Ridge Village Center's Major Redevelopment. Ultimately, Kimco will submit a Petition to the Howard County Zoning Board to amend the Hickory Ridge Village Center's Preliminary Development Plan.

Aren't able to attend but still want to learn more? Additional information can be found **online**. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the meeting minutes or submitted comments regarding the redevelopment, please send your request to Amy Wenzl at [awenzl@kimcorealty.com](mailto:awenzl@kimcorealty.com).

## Elkridge Pump Station Upgrade

A project to upgrade the water pump station at 6430 Elibank Dr in Elkridge is currently underway. Electrical, mechanical and structural improvements are being made to the existing pump station, and an emergency generator will be installed. Originally, this project had been delayed, but is very active now. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed **mid-August 2016**.

The project is not expected to impact the flow of traffic; however signs will be in place to advise residents of the construction. For questions, call **410-313-3440** or email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## Dorsey Run Rd Improvements

There are two projects coordinated (J4148 Dorsey Run Rd Extension & W8292 Water Main & Sewer).

**Dorsey Run Road Extension (J4148):** A project to extend Dorsey Run Road from Rt103 to Rt175 (approx. 3 miles) in 3 Phases (A, B & C). Phase A & C are complete. Phase B is almost complete. Montevideo Rd was lowered 9ft at Dorsey Run Rd and paved for the winter. Curb & gutter is approx. 95% complete. Roads will be open to traffic for during winter. Project is expected to be complete in **June 2016**.

**Dorsey Run Rd Phase B Water Main (W8292):**

A project to construct 5,500 LF of 12-in water main and relocate of 1,500 LF of sewer within proposed Dorsey Run Rd from existing Dorsey Run Rd to Montevideo Rd. This project is complete; however, the contractors anticipate paving to occur in the coming weeks.

## Longridge Knolls Spillway Replacement

A principal spillway replacement for a stormwater management pond located on Davis Rd near Roundtree Ln by the Animal Control Facility. This was due to corrosion of the original, CMP principal spillway pipe which will be replaced with a new concrete spillway pipe and riser structure. The pond will be regraded to provide sufficient storage volume to meet freeboard and stormwater management discharge requirements. Construction completion is anticipated in **mid-March 2016**.

## Multi-Use Pathway: Phase 2, 3 and 4

As part of the DT Columbia legislation, Howard Hughes is constructing a multi-use pathway from HCGH to Blandair Park. (CEPPA 12). The existing pathway will be widened, vegetation will be pruned for security, and lights will be installed to increase visibility. Intersections and crosswalks will be designed to accommodate & mark pedestrian traffic and include appropriate signage. Phase 2 and 4 are under construction. The project is expected to be complete **Spring 2016**.

## Ash Tree Removal



Due to emerald ash borer infestation, DPW has begun removing ash trees along various county-owned roadways throughout Columbia, Ellicott City, Elkridge, Jessup, Laurel and Woodbine. Weather permitting, the trees (stumps and all) will be removed by the end of winter with the intent that the trees will be replaced, where appropriate, by **June 2016**. The County will not be removing any trees located on private property.

## Blandair Park Construction

**Phase 2** - Construction has begun and will include sidewalk connections, a playground, 2 artificial turf fields, comfort station, pavilion, 5 tennis courts, parking lot, a promenade, a County bus stop and storm water management facilities. The artificial turf fields, and lights are installed. The tennis fields, storm water facilities, pavilion and comfort station are almost complete.

**Rt 175 Interchange** - As part of the construction at Blandair Park, the County will construct an interchange directly from Route 175 into the park between Thunder Hill Rd and Tamar Dr. This will reduce traffic coming into Oakland Mills and our local roads.

**Phase J** - Project to include the construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Oakland Mills Rd & Old Montgomery Rd and realign Oakland Mills Rd in Blandair Park. Construction has begun on the road realignment. A portion of Oakland Mills Rd in Blandair Park has been closed during the realignment reconstruction. Traffic will follow a marked detour [Click here for a map of the road closures and access points to the park.](#)

Construction has begun. Weather permitting, Recreation & Parks anticipates completion by **September 2017**.

As part of the Blandair project, a bridge over Rt 175 will be built connecting the northern and southern portions of the park. Once that is complete, the entrance to Blandair Park from Sohap Ln will be closed, reducing resident concerns.

## Frederick Rd Slope Repair

A project to repair and stabilize a slope and stream bank along Frederick Road has begun. Phase one of the project includes installation of an 80-foot rock retaining wall and a temporary concrete traffic barrier, both parallel to Frederick Road. Weather permitting, this phase is expected to be completed by **early March 2016**.

The project's second phase is scheduled to begin in mid-June, during which a nearby portion of roadway will be paved and a permanent guardrail will replace the concrete barrier. During this phase, flagging operations will be in place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for seven to 10 working days as traffic shifts to one lane along Frederick Road. Phase two is expected to be completed by the **end of June 2016**.

For questions or concerns call **410-313-3440** or email to [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## Open Meadow Way & Meadowsweet Ct Storm Water Pond Repair

A project to repair a storm water pond in the vicinity of Open Meadow Way and Meadowsweet Ct in Columbia has begun. It includes the replacement of the pond's steel outlet structure with a new concrete structure and removal of excess sediment. Portions of the pond are also being regraded.

Traffic is not expected to be impacted but signs will be posted to alert residents. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by **early April**.

For questions or concerns call **410-313-3440**.

## Rt 1 at Assateague Dr

I requested this project to improve walkability and pedestrian safety along the Route 1 corridor. SHA and the County are constructing a sidewalk along Assateague Dr from Pocomoke Ave to Rt 1. The County has completed our portion; SHA will construct a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. The concrete work is complete and crews are now working on the signal installation. The project is **ongoing**.

## Rogers Avenue Pond Repair to Begin

A project to repair and regrade a detention pond on Rogers Avenue in the vicinity of Rusty Rim in Ellicott City has begun. The project will include repair of the pond's steel principal spillway pipe. In addition, a portion of the pond will be regraded and converted to a bioretention pond. The conversion will allow the pond to capture storm water runoff from the Ellicott Hills subdivision and provide water quality treatment to storm water runoff reaching the Hudson Branch, a tributary of the Patapsco River. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by **late May**. This project is partially funded through the County's Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund.

Signs will be posted to alert residents of the project but it is not expected to impact the flow of traffic.

For questions or concerns call **410-313-3440** or email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## Hunting Ln Sewer Extension

A project to extend public water and sewer mains along Hunting Lane in the vicinity of Long View Road in Columbia has begun. Approx. 134 linear ft of eight-inch sewer main will be installed to provide sewer service to 7010 Long View Rd.

Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed during construction hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Signs will be posted to advise motorists of the construction. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by **mid-March**.

For questions or concerns call **410-313-3440** or e-mail [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).



## Greenway Dr & Greenlow Ct Drainage Improvement

A project to improve storm water drainage along Greenway Drive and Greenlow Court in Ellicott City has begun. On Greenway Drive, three new inlets and new storm drain pipes will be installed, and two existing inlets will be improved. Additionally, the storm drain between 2817 and 2821 Greenway Drive will be replaced. On Greenlow Court, a new storm drain will be added between 2921 and 2926 and two new inlets and a storm drain pipe will be installed.

Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed as Greenway Drive may shift to one lane, during construction hours, **Monday-Friday 7am-5pm** and **Saturday** (as needed), **9am**. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed **early March 2016**, with landscaping to be completed in the **Spring 2016**.

## Pebble Beach Dr Pond Repair

A project to repair and regrade a detention pond on Pebble Beach Drive in the vicinity of Excelsior Springs Court in Ellicott City has begun. The project includes the repair of the pond's steel principal spillway pipe and a portion of the pond will be regraded and converted to a shallow wetland. This conversion will allow the pond to capture stormwater runoff from the Turf Valley Overlook subdivision and provide water quality treatment to stormwater runoff reaching the Little Patuxent River. This project is partially funded through a Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund grant.

While signs will be posted to alert residents of the project, the project is not expected to impact the flow of traffic in the area. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by **late May 2016**.

For questions or concerns call **410-313-3440** or email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## BGE Gas Main

BGE has identified the need to upgrade a portion of the natural gas system near Columbia and are planning the installation of a new, underground natural gas main to reinforce the gas system serving the area.

The gas main will be located along nearly one mile of Old Montgomery Rd. between Route 108 and Route 103 in the road right of way. Work will take place **8am-4pm Monday-Friday** and will necessitate one lane closure during this period. Traffic will be limited to a single lane and will be controlled by flaggers. Outside of the 8am to 4pm work period, two-way traffic will be restored. BGE does not expect that gas service will be interrupted as a result of this work. If a temporary service interruption is required, you will be notified in advance.

Initial aspects of this project are underway and you may notice work crews on the right of way. All crews will have identification indicating they are BGE's authorized contractor, Willbros Construction. Work is scheduled to be complete during the **Fall of 2016**.

Should you have any questions, please contact BGE at [BGEPipeline@bge.com](mailto:BGEPipeline@bge.com) or **1-800-685-0123** and reference the Old Montgomery Road Gas Main Reinforcement. A member of the project will respond promptly.

## Future Projects

### Rt 1 at Kit Kat Rd

SHA has explored the installation of a traffic signal at Rt1 and Kit Kat Road. Additionally, the County has proposed a new capital project estimated to begin **July 1, 2016** to improve Kit Kat Road by widening the paved roadway section and is exploring adding a small shoulder. SHA is working on designs to install a traffic signal at this intersection and has initiated preliminary engineering for the project. They expect to complete the design phase within 24-months. A more detailed schedule will be developed as the project approaches the 30 percent design milestone. The project is not currently funded for construction.

## Meadowridge Wastewater Pump Station Upgrade

This project will replace force main from Meadowridge Rd and improve the wastewater pump station. When work is occurring in this intersection at night, traffic will be detoured to Business Pkwy.

The project has been awarded and will begin **Spring 2016** and should be completed in **Summer 2016**.

## Port Capital Roundabout and Sidewalk Improvements

To help ease the flow of traffic and promote a safe and walkable neighborhood, the county will install a mini-roundabout at the intersection of Port Capital Dr and New Colony Village. We will also construct the missing portion of sidewalk that will connect Port Capital Dr to Rt 1.

On **Wednesday, March 9, 5-8pm**, our Department of Public Works will hold a public meeting in the Media Center at Deep Run Elementary School, 6925 Old Waterloo Road in Elkridge to discuss the final design and construction of a proposed mini-roundabout at the intersection of Port Capital Drive, New Colony Boulevard and Harbour Drive. The project will include the addition of about 400 linear feet of missing sidewalk on the Northside of Port Capital Drive (Capital Project J-4168).

The proposed design/construction plans will be available to view and staff members will be on hand to explain the proposed plans and answer any community questions. Those unable to attend the meeting who would like to view the proposed plans and/or have questions should contact Abeye at **410-313-6143** or email [abgirma@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:abgirma@howardcountymd.gov).

## Rt103 @ Wesley/Old Stockbridge

Due to traffic concerns expressed to SHA and my office, SHA is proposing a traffic signal project to include left-turn phasing along eastbound and westbound MD103, pedestrian control signals, and crosswalk pavement markings along the west leg of MD103 and Old Stockbridge Dr. At this time, SHA will need funding for ROW acquisition before this project can proceed.

## Rt 1: Rt 175 to Montevideo

This is a SHA project to widen Rt1 near the Rt 175 intersection and make other improvements as needed. Currently, SHA and the County are working together to coordinate right-of-way land acquisitions and collaborate on this project. There is no timeline at this time.

## Rt 1 at Montevideo Rd

This project will include the relocation of Montevideo Rd to align with Port Capital Dr. SHA anticipates this project will likely proceed before the Rt1 widening. The County is moving forward with the 4<sup>th</sup> leg of the intersection with the intent of advertising as soon as plans are finished and approved by SHA.

## Furnace Ave Sewer Project

A developer project to install a sewer manhole and storm drain manhole on Furnace Ave in Elkridge is scheduled to begin on or about **late March 2016**. During this project, Furnace Ave between Main St and Railroad Ave will be closed to thru traffic. A clearly marked detour will be in place. However, local traffic will be able to access Furnace Ave but will not be permitted to pass through the excavation site.

Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by **April 2016**. For questions or concerns, call **410-313-3440** or email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## Rt 103 @ Long Gate Pkwy

There are two projects in this corridor: SHA is studying widening Rt103 and a property owner has proposed a project next to the YMCA which would allow for 79 townhomes with a max density of 111 townhomes. SHA is working with the property owner to install the missing sidewalk portion and possible installation of a traffic signal.

**Road Widening:** The Armory has historical significance and when SHA explored the proposed widening, it was determined there was anti-terrorism issues with the loss of frontage to the armory. Given that the armory will be relocated in **June 2019**; SHA has made the decision to delay this project with an anticipated NTP in **Summer 2019**.

**Housing Project:** School allocations have placed this project on hold. SHA may choose to construct the missing portion of the sidewalk in the interim near the Gatherings; however at this time there is no funding for the project.

## Patuxent Branch Trail

This [project](#) includes 1.3 miles of existing Patuxent Branch Trail between the trailhead at Old Guilford Rd and Vollmerhausen Rd in Savage. A grant was awarded in September 2015 for design and construction (\$1.09M). The goal is to upgrade the surface of the currently unpaved portion to bring it up to the same quality as the rest of the trail. This will improve accessibility for wider variety of non-motorized users including: people walking and jogging; people jogging or walking strollers; people in wheelchairs, mobility devices and walking aids; and people on bicycles. Expected construction period is **Spring/Summer 2018**.

## I-95 Repaving

I-95 was patched recently. This project will be to repave I-95 from Howard County line to the ICC. SHA anticipates resurfacing to start **mid-Summer 2016** and be complete by end of **November 2016**.

## Rt 29 Water Transmission Main

A project to install approx. 1.7 miles of 36" diameter water transmission main in the Columbia area. Award is expected to begin in the **Winter 2016** and construction will follow and begin in **Spring 2016**, continuing through **Winter 2017**. Affected streets include: South Entrance Rd, SB Little Patuxent Pkwy, South & North entrances of The Mall in Columbia (off Little Patuxent Pkwy), intersection of Wincopin Circle at Little Patuxent Pkwy, Sterrett Pl at Little Patuxent Pkwy, Governor Warfield Pkwy at Little Patuxent Pkwy, intersection of Columbia Rd at Little Patuxent Pkwy, and the ramp from Rt29 South to SB Little Patuxent Pkwy.

Most of the work is expected to be conducted at night, during weekdays 8pm-6am with the exception of a section located in the SB lanes of Little Patuxent Pkwy, from Governor Warfield Pkwy to South Entrance Rd which will be closed to traffic for approx. 90 days during **early 2017**. The County will be working closely with businesses, residents and regulatory agencies during this time to minimize disruptions to traffic and the environment. For questions, contact Paul Di Marco at **410-313-6126** or email [pdimarco@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:pdimarco@howardcountymd.gov).

## Old Montgomery Rd/Tamar Dr Roundabout

My office has worked with our DPW Engineers to address concerns at Tamar Dr/Old Montgomery Rd to reduce traffic accidents and improve the traffic flow at this intersection. We received the support of the village board and the overwhelming majority of residents and engineers are working on completing 30% preliminary designs before we return for a second community meeting with the village board and residents.

## Stevens Forest Rd/White Acre Streetscape

To reinvest in Oakland Mills and our Village Center, I've been working with the County and the OM Village Board to develop a streetscape project that supports our Master Plan. Concept Plan 1 includes storm water mgmt facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, shared bike lanes, lightings, preservation & plantings of trees, roadway medians, on-street parking and relocated bus shelters. There were no funds allocated in FY16 for this project and the FY17 budget will not be released to the Council until April 1, 2016.

## North Laurel Connections

Our Office of Transportation hosted an open house **November 17th** for feedback on the [North Laurel Connections](#) bicycle and pedestrian project. Goal is to develop preliminary designs for a series of on- and off-road facilities to improve pedestrian and bicycling connections from the trailhead of the Patuxent Trail at Savage Park to the North Laurel Community Center and continuing to the Laurel Race Track MARC Station & Laurel MARC Station. An engineering consultant has been brought on board and a second open house is being proposed for **Spring 2016** as the schedule has been pushed back. This project has only been funded for design, not construction. For more details, contact **David Cookson** at **410-313-3130** or [dcookson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:dcookson@howardcountymd.gov)

## Thank You for Following Along!

I hope you have found this information useful. If there are any projects you would like to see included within this newsletter, please email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

All the best,



Dr. Calvin Ball  
Chairperson, District 2  
Howard County Council

*"Changing the world is up to us. If each of us tries, the next generation may see a happier, more peaceful world emerge."*

~Dalai Lama